

REMARKS

Applicants submit the following Amendment in response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2009. Claims 1-37 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation of a medical device which is coupled to the locking component. Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 9 has been amended to depend on claim 1. Favorable reconsideration of all of the pending claims is requested in view of the remarks below.

The Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 11-37 are allowed and that claims 5, 6 and 10 would be allowable. Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are now allowable in view of the amendment of claim 1 which is addressed below.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) As Being Anticipated

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S Patent no. 4,416,504 to Sochor (the "Sochor patent"). Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position regarding the Sochor patent since this reference is directed to a coupling for mating electrical wires together. The Examiner has taken the position that the electrical wire 76 in the Sochor patent constitutes a guide wire. Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's position. However, in order to expedite allowance of this case, Applicants have amendment claim 1 to include the recitation of a medical device which is deliverable over the guide wire and is coupled to the locking component. This amendment to claim 1 was not made for the purpose of distinguishing the prior art since it is strongly believed that the prior art does not disclose the use of a guide wire, as that term is known in the industry. The Examiner has acknowledged that a medical device is not disclosed in the Sochor patent in the Office Action. For at least this reason, the Sochor patent fails to disclose all of the components recited in the rejected claims. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Sochor patent as an anticipatory reference.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 06-2425 for any additional fees in connection with this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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